

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JSULLIVAN:SK

APPROVED BY S/S-O: L MATTESON

EUR - MR. ARMITAGE (SUBS.)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195275 TOSEC 090020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS AS  
OF 0900 HOURS EDT, 17 AUGUST

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF AUGUST 16TH'S SEVEN-HOUR MEETING  
OF THE CABINET AND THE THREE-MAN DIRECTORATE, PRIME  
MINISTER GONCALVES APPEALED TO THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE FOR  
SUPPORT. ACCORDING TO THE FBIS TEXT, GONCALVES:

--ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE MINIMUM CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD  
PERMIT THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE HAVE NOT BEEN MET DUE  
TO "AMBIGUITIES...EXPRESSED BY THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT."

--CALLED UPON THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE TO DEMAND AN URGENT  
END TO THE POLITICAL AMBIGUITIES WHICH ARE COMPROMISING  
THE UNITY OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND AN END TO INTER-PARTY  
QUARRELS.

THE FUNDAMENTAL DIVISIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE PARTIES  
AND IN THE ARMED FORCES ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF DIVISIONS  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE, AND WILL NOT BE  
RESOLVED BY APPEALS TO THE PEOPLE. WE HAVE NO ADDITIONAL

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REPORTS, AS YET, OF WHAT WENT ON AT THE CABINET MEETING.

2. THE EFFORTS OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO RE-  
ASSERT ITSELF IN THE NORTH-CENTRAL TOWN OF ALCOBACA,

WHERE TOWNSPEOPLE DESTROYED THE LOCAL CP HEADQUARTERS TWO  
WEEKS AGO, WERE MET BY VIOLENT REACTION. FOLLOWING A  
MEETING OF 1,500 COMMUNISTS IN THE LOCAL STADIUM, 100  
COMMUNISTS WERE TRAPPED INSIDE THE STADIUM BY 300  
DEMONSTRATORS, AND HAD TO BE RESCUED BY TROOPS. PRESS  
REPORTS INDICATE THAT ALVARO CUNHAL, 61, WAS TAKEN ILL  
AFTER LEAVING THE STADIUM AND WAS ADMITTED TO A NEARBY  
HOSPITAL. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO REPORTS ON HIS CONDITION,  
AND THE PCP COMMUNIQUE ON THE INCIDENT DOES NOT MENTION  
CUNHAL'S ILLNESS. ABOUT 15 WERE INJURED IN THE ALCOBACA  
CLASHES, TWO CRITICALLY. SISCO

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